

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 IO-13
EB-08 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 SAS-02
MCE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 DOEE-00
/117 W

-----002440 071713Z /44

O R 071600Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5666
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USAFE RAMSTEIN GERMANY
USDOCOSOUTH
US MISSION USNATO 4547

S E C R E T ROME 16695

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, MILI, MPOL
SUBJECT: DEPLOYMENT OF STABALLOY MUNITIONS FOR A-10

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REF: (A) STATE 221419, (B) STATE 221420, (C) STATE 224174

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY OFFICERS DISCUSSED CONTENTS REFTELS WITH
ADMIRAL MAININI, CHIEF OF CABINET, MOD, AND WITH MINISTER
BRUNO BOTTAL, VICE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN MFA.
BOTH THOUGH GOI WOULD PROBABLY DECIDE NOT TO OBJECT TO DEPLOYMENT
IN ITALY OF STABALLOY PROJECTILES, BUT CONCERN WAS VOICED

ABOUT PROPOSED PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. ALSO, ADMIRAL MAININI
THOUGH RADIOACTIVE LABELS ON PROJECTILE CONTAINERS
SHOULD BE COVERED UP. END SUMMARY.

2. ADMIRAL MAININI, THOUGH OPTIMISTIC ABOUT CHANCES OF MOD'S
SUPPORT FOR GOI APPROVAL, MENTIONED TWO PARAS OF POTENTIAL
DIFFICULTY.

3. CONCERNING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, HE THOUGH THE LESS SAID
TO THE PRESS THE LESS DANGER THERE WOULD BE THAT
DEPLOYMENT OF PROJECTILES IN ITALY WOULD CAUSE
PROBLEMS FOR GOI. IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE THOUGHT THE MOD WOULD
PREFER NO PRESS RELEASE AT ALL. AT MOST HE THOUGH AN
ANNOUNCEMENT OF DEPLOYMENT OF A-10'S WAS SUFFICIENT. THERE
WAS NO NEED IN HIS VIEW TO PUBLICLY AIR QUESTION OF AMMUNITION
TO BE USED BY THE WEAPON CARRIED BY THE AIRCRAFT.

4. THE OTHER POTENTIAL SOURCE OF TROUBLE MAININI SAW WAS
RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS LABEL ON PROJECTILE CONTAINERS. HE
ASSUMED THAT AT SOME STAGE IN THE HANDLING OF THESE
CONTAINERS, THEIR LABELS WOULD BE SEEN BY ITALIAN CIVILIANS; CON-
SEQUENTLY, HE RECOMMENDED THAT IF POSSIBLE PROJECTILE
CONTAINERS BE ENCLOSED IN AN ADDITIONAL LAYER OF PACKAGING.

5. ADMIRAL MAININI WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF THESE TWO AREAS
OF CONCERN COULD BE DEALT WITH SATISFACTORILY, MOD WOULD BE
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UNLIKELY TO RAISE ANY OBJECTION TO ENTRY OF STABALLOY
PROJECTILES INTO ITALY. IF NOT, HOWEVER, HE THOUGH THE
MATTER MIGHT HAVE TO BE CONSIDERED MORE CAREFULLY. HE
SUGGESTED EMBASSY RAISE MATTER AGAIN AFTER HIS RETURN
(ABOUT SEPTEMBER 18) FROM ACCOMPANYING MINISTER OF DEFENSE
RUFFINI ON LATTER'S VISIT TO US.

6. BOTTAI WAS ALSO GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT GOI WOULD
NOT OBJECT PROPOSED PROJECTILE DEPLOYMENT, BUT HE, TOO,
EXPRESSED SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT PUBLIC DISCLOSURE. NOTING,
HOWEVER, THAT PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE MIGHT NOT SPECIFICALLY
MENTION ITALY, HE THOUGHT GOI MIGHT FIND IT NECESSARY
OBJECT TO IT, ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT NO FURTHER PRESS
STATEMENT WOULD BE ISSUED WHEN PROJECTILES ARE EVENTUALLY
INTRODUCED INTO ITALY.

7. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH CHANCES SEEM FAIRLY GOOD AT THIS STAGE THAT
GOI WILL NOT OBJECT TO STABALLOY PROJECTILE DEPLOYMENT IN ITALY,
THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY THAT OBJECTIONS WILL BE RAISED
AT UPPER LEVELS IN GOI. CHANCES OF A FAVORABLE OUTCOME
WOULD BE ENHANCED BY MOST FORTHCOMING RESPONSE POSSIBLE TO
RESERVATIONS (RE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND PACKAGING) EXPRESSED BY

ADMIRAL MAININI AND TO A LESSER EXTENT
BY BOTTAI. IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THIS RESPONSE
BY SEPTEMBER 18 WHEN WE WILL AGAIN SEEK TO DISCUSS MATTER
WITH MOD AND MFA IN THE HOPE OF OBTAINING A DEFINITIVE REPLY.

8. DOD MAY WISH TO CONSIDER RAISING THIS MATTER WITH RUFFINI
DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.HOLMES

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